

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 SCA-01 CPR-02 A-01 M-03 SS-15

NSC-10 RSR-01 SAJ-01 PRS-01 PA-03 PER-05 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 /095 W

----- 089614

R 311515 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9247

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJ: MFA PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING TRAVEL NOTICE PERIOD

REF: MOSCOW 6337

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED MFA NOTE DATED MAY 28 (TEXT IN REFTEL) PROPOSING REDUCTION (FROM 48 TO 24 HOURS) OF ADVANCE NOTICE PERIOD FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN WASHINGTON- NEW YORK AND MOSCOW- LENINGRAD BY PERSONNEL OF RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES AND "OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS."

2. EMBASSY WISHES ENCOURAGE MFA GESTURE TOWARD RELAXING TRAVEL CONTROLS BUT FINDS SOVIET PROPOSAL ONE- SIDED AND VAGUE. ONE- SIDED CHARACTER OF PROPOSAL STEMS FROM FACT THAT SOVIET TRAVELERS WASHINGTON- NEW YORK GREATLY OUTNUMBER US TRAVELERS MOSCOW- LENINGRAD. VAGUENESS RESULTS FROM PROPOSAL'S FAILURE SPECIFY WHICH "OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS" ARE TO BENEFIT. WE PRESUME THAT PERSONNEL OF RESPECTIVE CONSULATE GENERAL- DESIGNATES ARE INCLUDED, BUT SOVIET LANGUAGE COULD IMPLY THAT PERSONNEL OF AMTORG, SOVIET PRESS AGENCIES, ETC. ARE COVERED AS WELL. IN THIS CASE, NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE HELD BY SOVIETS AND AMBIGUITIES RESULTING FROM PRIVATE, NON- GOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER OF CORRESPONDING US ENTITIES IN SOVIET UNION WOULD FURTHER ENLARGE IMBALANCE IN BENEFITS CONFERRED BY SOVIET

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PROPOSAL.

3. WE HAVE TAKEN THESE CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAFTING A SUGGESTED COUNTER PROPOSAL TO SOVIET NOTE, THE TEXT OF WHICH IS GIVEN IN PARA 5 BELOW. THIS COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSING WITH SOVIETS AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES AGREEING TO THESE PROCEDURES.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO CONSULT ON THIS MATTER WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH ARE BETTER ABLE THAN WE TO WEIGH THE DOMESTIC US SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. FROM THE EMBASSY'S VIEWPOINT, THE MAJOR GOAL OF OUR COUNTERPROPOSAL SHOULD BE TO SECURE A SOVIET AGREEMENT

TO NON- INTERFERENCE WITH TRAVEL BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL- DESIGNATE IN LENINGRAD. AS RECENT EVENTS HAVE SHOWN, THE SOVIETS CAN, AT WILL, BLOCK THIS TRAVEL, TO THE DETRIMENT OF NORMAL EMBASSY AND CONSULATE OPERATIONS. IF WE CAN OBTAIN THEIR AGREEMENT NOT TO IMPEDE THIS TRAVEL, ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS IRRITANTS IN THE TRAVEL PICTURE WILL BE REMEDIED.

5. DEPARTMENT' S COMMENTS REQUESTED.

6. DRAFT REPLY: BEGIN QUOTE. REPLYING TO THE MFA' S NOTE OF MAY 28, THE EMBASSY OF USA WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN WITH THE MFA IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES AUTHORIZING:

A. PERSONNEL OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, THE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL - DESIGNATE IN SAN FRANCISCO AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO TRAVEL AT ANY TIME AND BY ANY MEANS BETWEEN THE CITIES OF WASHINGTON, D. C. AND NEW YORK;

B. PERSONNEL OF THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, THE U. S. CONSULATE GENERAL- DESIGNATE IN LENINGRAD AND OTHER U. S. OFFICIALS TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO TRAVEL AT ANY TIME AND BY ANY MEANS BETWEEN THE CITIES OF MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD.

NOTICE OF TRAVEL PERTINENT TO THIS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IS TO BE COMMUNICATED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF EACH GOVERNMENT (THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOR SOVIET TRAVEL; THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR U. S. TRAVEL) NOT LATER THAN 24 HOURS (8 OF WHICH MUST COINCIDE WITH A NORMAL WORKING DAY) BEFORE TRAVEL BEGINS. THE CUSTOMARY FORM OF NOTIFICATION WILL BE A WRITTEN NOTE WHICH IDENTIFIES THE PERSONS TRAVELING , THE DES- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TINATION , DATE AND MODE OF TRAVEL . IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, NOTICE MAY BE GIVEN BY TELEPHONE , AND LESS THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. TRAVEL DULY NOTIFIED TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISAPPROVAL. TRAVEL FOR WHICH NOTIFICATION IS GIVEN LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE MAY BE DISAPPROVED, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE APPROPRIATE

AUTHORITY.

THE PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT EXTEND AUTOMATICALLY TO PERSONNEL
OF THE OFFICAL COMMERCIAL MISSIONS OF EACH PARTY AT THE
TIME THESE MISSIONS ARE DECLARED OPEN.

EACH SIDE MAY PROPOSE EXTENSION OF THESE PROVISIONS, ON A
RECIPROCAL

BASIS, TO OTHER CATEGORIES OF CITIZENS AND OFFICIALS NOT
PRESENTLY AFFECTED BY THEM. END QUOTE.

DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW06340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730556/aaaajwfv.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 MOSCOW 6337
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <04-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980309
Subject: MFA PROPOSAL FOR REDUCING TRAVEL NOTICE PERIOD
TAGS: PINS, UR
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005